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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,698	08/15/2001	Ran J. Flam	sparta01.001	1621

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EXAMINER	
LY, ANH	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2162	

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/930,698	FLAM, RAN J.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anh Ly	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 August 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *15 August 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *07/21/2005*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is response to Applicant's Communications filed 08/15/2001.

2. Claims 1-20 are pending in this Application.

Claim Objections

3. The claim 13, (see lines 6-8) is objected to because the lines are crowded too closely together, making reading difficult. Substitute claims with lines one and one-half or double spaced on good quality paper are required. See 37 CFR 1.52(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3, and 8-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pub. No.: US V20030004952 A1 of Nixon et al. (hereinafter

Nixon) in view of Pub. No.: 2005/0038885 A1 of Agrusa et al. (hereinafter Agrusa).

With respect to claim 1, Nixon teaches a process control system (abstract and section 0010) comprising: a server that has access to a database system (figs. 1, 3-5, a server accessing to a database of a process control system: section 0011) and executes program code for the process control system (executing a configuration application for the control program: section 0033);

a table of process records in the database system, each process record indicating a current status of a process being controlled by the system (state of current process being controlled by the system is stored in the table: section 0067; also section 0003); and

a table of administrative query records in the database system, each administrative query record specifying an administrative query that is associated with a query on the table of process records and with an administrative activity (the request or query associated with process table is stored in the database system: section 0033 and 0069).

Nixon teaches a server accessing to a database system, executing software application including a plurality of program codes for the process control system and keep tracking of current status of the process and storing them in a database table and the quest or query to the process control system for the process record is performed and stored in the database table. Nixon does not clearly teach a portion of the program code which, when executed, selects one of the administrative queries for execution, executes the query associated

therewith, and performs the associated administrative activity with regard to the result set returned by the associated query.

However, Agrusa teaches executing the software program including a plurality of line of codes or statements having a portion of line of code for requesting or querying and performing to produce the result associated to the query (sections 0040 and 0049).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Nixon with the teachings of Agrusa by executing the software program having line of codes for returning a set of result associated with the query, because that would provide those having skilled in the art the ability to perform any desired function with the respect to the process such as viewing the current state of the process (Nixon's section 0003), thereby, increasing the efficiency of the process by obtaining information based on the execution of query associated with it (Agrusa's section 0006).

With respect to claim 2, Nixon teaches a process control system as discussed in claim 1.

Nixon teaches a server accessing to a database system, executing software application including a plurality of program codes for the process control system and keep tracking of current status of the process and storing them in a database table and the quest or query to the process control system for the process record is performed and stored in the database table. Nixon does not clearly teach a log table in the database system that has records logging

executions of the query and process records returned thereby and from whose records the portion of the code can, when executed, to the current execution of the administrative query and wherein: there is a plurality of administrative activities associated with the administrative query and which of the plurality of administrative activities is performed with regard to a record.

However, Agrusa teaches executing the software program including a plurality of line of codes or statements having a portion of line of code for requesting or querying and performing to produce the result associated to the query (sections 0040 and 0049), a plurality of processes or activities and actions (figs. 3 & 4; sections 0005, 0052 and 0055).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Nixon with the teachings of Agrusa by executing the software program having line of codes for returning a set of result associated with the query, because that would provide those having skilled in the art the ability to perform any desired function with the respect to the process such as viewing the current state of the process (Nixon's section 0003), thereby, increasing the efficiency of the process by obtaining information based on the execution of query associated with it (Agrusa's section 0006).

With respect to claim 3, Nixon teaches a process control system as discussed in claim 1.

Nixon teaches a server accessing to a database system, executing software application including a plurality of program codes for the process control

system and keep tracking of current status of the process and storing them in a database table and the quest or query to the process control system for the process record is performed and stored in the database table. Nixon does not clearly teach the portion of the code can further, when executed, determine from the log table and which of the more than one of the administrative activities is performed with regard to a record belonging to the result.

However, Agrusa teaches executing the software program including a plurality of line of codes or statements having a portion of line of code for requesting or querying and performing to produce the result associated to the query (sections 0040 and 0049), a plurality of processes or activities and actions (figs. 3 & 4; sections 0005, 0052 and 0055).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Nixon with the teachings of Agrusa by executing the software program having line of codes for returning a set of result associated with the query, because that would provide those having skilled in the art the ability to perform any desired function with the respect to the process such as viewing the current state of the process (Nixon's section 0003), thereby, increasing the efficiency of the process by obtaining information based on the execution of query associated with it (Agrusa's section 0006).

With respect to claim 8, Nixon teaches the administrative activity includes one or more actions; and when the administrative activity is performed, the actions included therein are executed (section 0047).

With respect to claim 9, Nixon teaches there is a plurality of different types of actions that may be included in an administrative activity (section 0053).

With respect to claim 10, Nixon teaches the types of actions include actions which modify values in process records belonging to the result set when the activity in which the action is included is executed (sections 0053-0054).

With respect to claim 11, Nixon teaches the types of actions include actions which post a record for a process in a further table in the database system when the activity in which the action is included is executed (sections 0053-0054).

With respect to claim 12, Nixon teaches the types of actions include actions which generate a report listing the result set when the activity in which the action is included is executed (sections 0047 and 0078).

With respect to claim 13, Nixon teaches a process control system as discussed in claim 1.

Nixon teaches a server accessing to a database system, executing software application including a plurality of program codes for the process control system and keep tracking of current status of the process and storing them in a database table and the quest or query to the process control system for the process record is performed and stored in the database table. Nixon does not clearly teach portion of the program code executes the action records associated with the associated administrative activity.

However, Agrusa teaches executing the software program including a plurality of line of codes or statements having a portion of line of code for

requesting or querying and performing to produce the result associated to the query (sections 0040 and 0049), a plurality of processes or activities and actions (figs. 3 & 4; sections 0005, 0052 and 0055).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Nixon with the teachings of Agrusa by executing the software program having line of codes for returning a set of result associated with the query, because that would provide those having skilled in the art the ability to perform any desired function with the respect to the process such as viewing the current state of the process (Nixon's section 0003), thereby, increasing the efficiency of the process by obtaining information based on the execution of query associated with it (Agrusa's section 0006).

With respect to claim 14, Nixon teaches there is a plurality of types of actions; and there is a plurality of the action tables, each action table of the plurality thereof containing action records for actions of one type of the plurality thereof (sections 0053-0054 and 0078).

With respect to claims 15-16, Nixon teaches a process control system as discussed in claim 1.

Nixon teaches a server accessing to a database system, executing software application including a plurality of program codes for the process control system and keep tracking of current status of the process and storing them in a database table and the quest or query to the process control system for the process record is performed and stored in the database table. Nixon does not

clearly teach a schedule accessible to the server that relates administrative queries to times for and scheduling information.

However, Agrusa teaches performing on a desired scheduler (section 0076).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Nixon with the teachings of Agrusa by executing the software program having line of codes for returning a set of result associated with the query, because that would provide those having skilled in the art the ability to perform any desired function with the respect to the process such as viewing the current state of the process (Nixon's section 0003), thereby, increasing the efficiency of the process by obtaining information based on the execution of query associated with it (Agrusa's section 0006).

With respect to claims 17-19, Nixon teaches a process control system as discussed in claim 1.

Nixon teaches a server accessing to a database system, executing software application including a plurality of program codes for the process control system and keep tracking of current status of the process and storing them in a database table and the quest or query to the process control system for the process record is performed and stored in the database table. Nixon does not clearly teach portion of the program code executes the action records associated with the associated administrative activity.

However, Agrusa teaches executing the software program including a plurality of line of codes or statements having a portion of line of code for requesting or querying and performing to produce the result associated to the query (sections 0040 and 0049), a plurality of processes or activities and actions (figs. 3 & 4; sections 0005, 0052 and 0055).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Nixon with the teachings of Agrusa by executing the software program having line of codes for returning a set of result associated with the query, because that would provide those having skilled in the art the ability to perform any desired function with the respect to the process such as viewing the current state of the process (Nixon's section 0003), thereby, increasing the efficiency of the process by obtaining information based on the execution of query associated with it (Agrusa's section 0006).

With respect to claim 20, Nixon teaches a query table in the database system whose records specify queries on the process record table; and
an administrative activity type table in the database system whose records specify administrative activity types, the administrative query record for an administrative query specifying the query on the table of process records by specifying a record in the query table and specifying the administrative action by specifying a record in the administrative activity type table (sections 0053-0054, 0080, 0091 and 0105).

6. Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pub. No.: US V20030004952 A1 of Nixon et al. (hereinafter Nixon) in view of Pub. No.: 2005/0038885 A1 of Agrusa et al. (hereinafter Agrusa) and further in view of US Patent No. 5,778,387 issued to Wilkerson et al. (hereinafter Wilkerson).

With respect to claim 4, Nixon in view of Agrusa discloses a method for identifying topics as discussed in claim 1.

Nixon and Agrusa disclose substantially the invention as claimed.

Neither Nixon nor Zimmermann does not teach a program sequence table in the database system that contains a set of program sequence records, the next sequence pointer specifying a next record of the set of program sequence records, in the program in the program sequence record specified by the next record pointer and setting the next sequence pointer as specified in the program sequence record.

However, Wilkerson teaches program sequence and temporary table and a series of pointer values (col. 3, lines 10-25, col. 1, lines 52-65 and col. 7, lines 15-50).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Nixon in view of Agrusa with the teachings of Wilkerson by incorporating the use of a program sequence table in the database system. The motivation being to perform any desired function with the respect to the process such as viewing the current state of the process (Nixon's section 0003), thereby, increasing the efficiency of the

process by obtaining information based on the execution of query associated with it (Agrusa's section 0006).

With respect to claims 5-7, Nixon in view of Agrusa discloses a method for identifying topics as discussed in claim 1.

Nixon and Agrusa disclose substantially the invention as claimed.

Neither Nixon nor Zimmermann does not teach a program sequence record and temporal.

However, Wilkerson teaches program sequence and temporary table and a series of pointer values (col. 3, lines 10-25, col. 1, lines 52-65 and col. 7, lines 15-50).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Nixon in view of Agrusa with the teachings of Wilkerson by incorporating the use of a program sequence table in the database system. The motivation being to perform any desired function with the respect to the process such as viewing the current state of the process (Nixon's section 0003), thereby, increasing the efficiency of the process by obtaining information based on the execution of query associated with it (Agrusa's section 0006).

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is (571) 272-4039 or via E-Mail: ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV **or fax to (571) 273-4039**. The examiner can normally be reached on TUESDAY – THURSDAY from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on (571) 272-4107 or **Primary Examiner Jean Corrielus (571) 272-4032.**

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see **http://pair-direct.uspto.gov**. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, or faxed to: Central Fax Center **(571) 273-8300**

ANH LY
AUG. 26th, 2005

JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER